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MR. NELSON ...CAN YOU SAY A FEW WORDS?
UH... OF COURSE!
I GUESS
FRANKLIN NELSON, ATTORNEY FOR CHIEF MICAH AND THE KINJORGE TRIBE.
THIS IS MY WIFE, DEBBIE!
HI, THERE! MEL-LO!
AS YOU KNOW, MICAH AND THE KINJORGE WERE RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN EASTERN AFRICA.* THEY'RE THE DESCENDANTS OF A GROUP OF SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH EXPLORERS, THEY'VE HAD A TOUGH TIME OF IT--
*AS EXPLAINED LAST ISSUE--BOB.
-- DISEASE, FAMINE, ATTACKS FROM HOSTILE NEIGHBORS...TERRIBLE STUFF. AWFUL.
ANYWAY, PROFESSOR PIPER HAS HIRED OUR FIRM--NELSON AND MURDOCK, ATTORNEYS AT LAW -- TO REPRESENT THE KINJORGE'S INTERESTS--
FRANKLIN --HE'S LEFT!
SUBWAY
COME ON!

'SCUSE ME.
SUBWAY
THERE THEY ARE.
EXIT
WHAT'S YOUR IMPRESSION OF NEW YORK, CHIEF?
UGLY, SMELLS BAD. BE NO FIT PLACE FOR A FREE MAN, BUT BE NICE TO VISIT.
CHIEF, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF AMERICAN WOMEN?
THIS IS GETTING TIRESOME... THIS TAILING ALONG WITH MICAH. BUT THE FIGHT I HAD WITH HIM YESTERDAY* CONVINCES ME HE'S GOING TO GET IN MORE TROUBLE--AND THAT MEANS GRIEF FOR NELSON AND MURDOCK.
*DD # 202-- BOB.
BE A LOT EASIER IF I COULD SHOW MYSELF, BUT I DON'T WANT TO CONNECT DAREDEVIL WITH NELSON AND MURD--
EH?
MY RADAR SENSE...
...PICKING UP SOMEONE ON THE PLATFORM WITH SOME SORT OF WEAPON--

THWANG
THOMP!
I CAN HEAR THE ASSASSIN RUNNING UP THE STAIRS TOWARD THE STREET. BUT I HEAR SOMETHING ELSE--
--A TRAIN ENTERING THE STATION... HEADING STRAIGHT FOR MICAH'S WIFE.
SHE'S NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE. SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THE DANGER SHE'S IN.

THE REST OF THESE PEOPLE WON'T BE QUICK ENOUGH TO REACH HER IN TIME.
NO CHOICE. I'VE GOT TO LET THE WOULD-BE KILLER ESCAPE--
KRRRROOOAAARR
RRRRRRRR
SKREEECH
SOMEBODY BETTER CALL A...A....

NO NEED TO CALL ANYONE. JUST HELP THE LADY GET CLEANED UP.
EXCUSE ME.
MY HYPER-SENSES ARE REELING FROM THE NOISE AND VIBRATION OF THE TRAIN...
EXIT
I CAN BARELY TELL WHERE THE EXIT IS. AND THE ASSASSIN'S HAD ALMOST A FULL MINUTE'S HEAD START.
BUT MAYBE I'LL GET LUCKY. MAYBE HE'S SLIPPED ON A BANANA PEEL--
NO.

"HE COULD BE ANYWHERE."
D'YOU MEAN TO TELL ME, DEAR BOY, THAT YOU HAVE FAILED?
THIS SCUMSCULLION OF A CITY--
--IT'D THROW ANY LADDYBUCK OFF HIS AIM, BUT NEXT TIME, LORD SYNN...NEXT TIME IT'S SKEWERED HE'LL BE.
PROMISES ARE NOT EXACTLY COIN OF THE REALM, CROSSBOW. AND SPEAKING OF MONEY... YOU DO KNOW, DON'T YOU--
--THAT I SHALL NOT PAY YOU THE REST OF THE FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS UNTIL MICAH IS FOOD FOR WORMS?
SO YOU KEEP TELLIN' ME. BUT YOU KNOW I'M NOT DOIN' IT FOR THE PROFIT OF IT--
--BUT FOR THE NEED I SEE TO PUT MICAH IN THE GROUND.
NOT THAT I WON'T TAKE THE FIFTY THOUSAND!
THE NEED. INDEED. THE NEED...
TEE HEE.
HE'S OF MY FAMILY, THIS MICAH... MY BLOOD RUNS IN HIS VEINS... SYNN BLOOD... BLOOD THAT MUST BE SPILLED BEFORE ANYONE LEARNS THAT HE AND I ARE OF THE SAME ANCESTRY.
HE IS A BRUTE, AN ANIMAL, A HEATHEN, A SAVAGE--A BLOT ON THE SYNN HONOR.
YOU SHALL REMOVE HIM.

I WILL, AND IT COULD BE I'LL THROW IN THE MEDDLER IN THE RED COSTUME AS A BONUS!
"WHOEVER HE IS."
DAREDEVIL?
GEE, I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HE WENT. WHY DO YOU ASK, CHIEF?
BUSINESS! I HAVE WITH HIM ... I AND THE GREAT GOD MOW!
YOU REFERRED TO THIS GOD MOW BEFORE. COULD YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT HIM?
FRANKLIN-- LOOK!
THE GIRL... SRA. SHE'S SICK!
PROBABLY THE SWAYING OF THE SUBWAY CAR GOT TO HER.
MAYBE SOMETHING SHE ATE! SHE'S NOT USED TO THE FOOD...
HA HA HA HA HA HA

THAT MICAH...IS HE LAUGHING AT HER?
THEY HAVE DIFFERENT... CUSTOMS. MAYBE THAT'S HIS WAY OF SHOWING...
...OF SHOWING CONCERN.
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
WE'RE COMING INTO A STATION--
--I HAVE A DOCTOR FRIEND JUST UP THE BLOCK.
YOU'LL BE FINE IN A FEW MINUTES, SRA.
WELL, CHIEF MICAH, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE SUBWAY?
DIRTY, BUT IN--IN ...INTER...
INTERESTING?
YES. IN-TER-EST-ING!
BUT FASCINATING, FRANKLIN--

--ABSOLUTELY, SIMPLY FASCINATING! CHIEF MICAH IS JUST AN *INCREDIBLE* FIND.
BUT DO YOU THINK HE'D FIT IN? AT THE PARTY, I MEAN?
LIKE THE PROVERBIAL PETUNIA IN A ONION PATCH, HE WOULD!
HUSH, BECKY.

YOU'VE *GOT* TO LET ME INVITE HIM, FRANKLIN. IT WOULD ABSOLUTELY *MAKE* MY LITTLE SOIREE.
WELL, OKAY.

FRANKLIN, YOU DEAR!

WHERE'S THE PHONE?
HERE.
HELLO, INFORMATION? GIVE ME THE NAME OF THE *NEW YORK TIMES* SOCIETY EDITOR.
I SAW MICAH AS FAR AS HIS HOTEL--

--AND THAT'S THE END OF MY PLAYING GUARDIAN ANGEL TODAY. I *DO* HAVE ANOTHER LIFE TO LIVE AS--

MATT!
BE QUIET. I'M TALKING TO A SOCIETY EDITOR.

THAT'S CORRECT CHIEF. MICAH OF THE KINJORGE WILL ATTEND THE PENTHOUSE PARTY OF MRS. FRANKLIN NELSON. THAT'S SPELLED N-E-L-S-O-N.
THE ATTORNEY'S WIFE.
ME.
FOGGY, WE'VE GOT TO TALK.

COULD YOU DO ME A TEENSY FAVOR AND TELL LIZ SMITH OF THE NEWS!
I WANT US TO CUT MICAH LOOSE AS A CLIENT.

YOU WILL NOT, MATTHEW MURDOCK. HOW CAN YOU--?
HE'S TROUBLE, DEBBIE. THE KIND OF TROUBLE WE'RE NOT EQUIPPED TO HANDLE.
I'VE GOT TO GO ALONG WITH DEBBIE MATT. WE'RE GETTING TONS OF PUBLICITY--

WHICH WE DON'T NEED AND SHOULDN'T WANT. BUT FORGET THAT. LET'S SAY WE CONTINUE TO REPRESENT MICAH. THEN WE'D BETTER FIND OUT WHO'S TRYING TO KILL HIM.
YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT?
FROM THE REPORTERS.

THAT'S RIGHT, MS SMITH THE LAST NAME IS NELSON. THAT'S N-E--
LAST NAME. YOU KNOW MATT MICAH HAS TO HAVE A LAST NAME. I MEAN, HE IS DESCENDED FROM AN ENGLISH FAMILY.
OKAY. SO WHAT?

MOTIVE, MATT. PEOPLE WHO KILL PEOPLE USUALLY HAVE A REASON. MAYBE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS FAMILY.

WORTH CHECKING INTO, ANYWAY. BECKY GET ME PROFESSOR PIPER WILL YOU?

...SO PROFESSOR PIPER BELIEVES MICAH IS DESCENDED FROM THE SYNN FAMILY. THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO DATE BACK TO KING HENRY THE FOURTH.
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING REGAL ABOUT HIM.
ANYWAY, MATT'S TRYING TO FIND OUT IF MICAH HAS ANY LIVING RELATIVES. AND IF SO, WHERE THEY ARE.
I DON'T THINK IT'S PROPER WHAT MATT DOES... A BLIND MAN TRAIPSING AROUND, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE HAS A PARTY TO GO TO.
HE'D BETTER NOT BE LATE. I'LL NEVER FORGIVE H.M.
I HEAR SOMEONE AT THE DOOR. IT MUST BE THE CATERER.
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT. I RAN INTO TONY STARK, THE MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY INDUSTRIALIST INVENTOR. THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS MENTIONED IN SUZY'S COLUMN? HE SAID HE'D COME TO THE PARTY.
WONDERFUL, DEB.
MILLIONAIRES, NOW, MATT, YOU BETTER SHOW UP OR I WON'T HAVE ANYONE TO TALK TO.
I SHOULD BE GETTING TO FOGGY'S. BUT BECKY FOUND OUT THAT LORD BARRINGTON SYNN IS IN TOWN... CHIEF MICAH'S ONLY LIVING RELATIVE.
COULD BE A CO-INCIDENCE--
HOTEL
...BUT I CAN'T GO WRONG CHECKING IT OUT.
I OUGHT TO BE DIRECTLY ABOVE SYNN'S ROOM

PHONE RINGING HE'S WALKING ACROSS CARPET. PICKING IT UP.
IS THAT YOU, DEAR BOY? YES. YES... I'VE MADE INQUIRIES. THE NEWS REPORT ON THE TELLY WAS TRUE. HE WILL BE THERE. YOU'LL SEE TO HIM?
WHEN I CONFIRM HIS... DEMISE, I SHALL PAY YOU THE REST OF YOUR HONORARIUM.
TA TA.
KRHRAASH
WHAT IS THE MEAWING--
YOU WERE TALKING TO AN ASSASSIN. YOU WERE DISCUSSING THE MURDER OF MICAH SYNN.
N-NO...
DON'T LIE TO ME. DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD THAT ISN'T TRUE. JUST DON'T.
WHO IS THE KILLER? WHAT'S HIS NAME? WHERE IS HE?
C-CROSSBOW... HIS NAME IS CROSSBOW. HE SHOULD BE ARRIVING AT THE RESIDENCE OF A FRANKLIN NELSON--

DON'T HURT ME..
HE'S... GONE?
THIS IS LORD SYNN. I WISH TO CHECK OUT IMMEDIATELY.
MEANWHILE...
HI THERE, HEL-LO. COME ON IN, TONY--
-- I MAY CALL YOU TONY MAYN -- I MR. STARK? AND MAY I SHOW YOU AROUND OUR NEW HOME? THE PENTHOUSE?
OF COURSE: IT'S JUST AWEULLY EXPENSIVE--
--BUT FRANKLIN'S DOING SO WELL IN HIS LEGAL PROFESSION..

...AND I FEEL A PROPER HOME IS SO IMPORTANT TO A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE...
DEBBIE...THE GUEST OF HONOR--
MICAH! HOW NICE OF YOU--

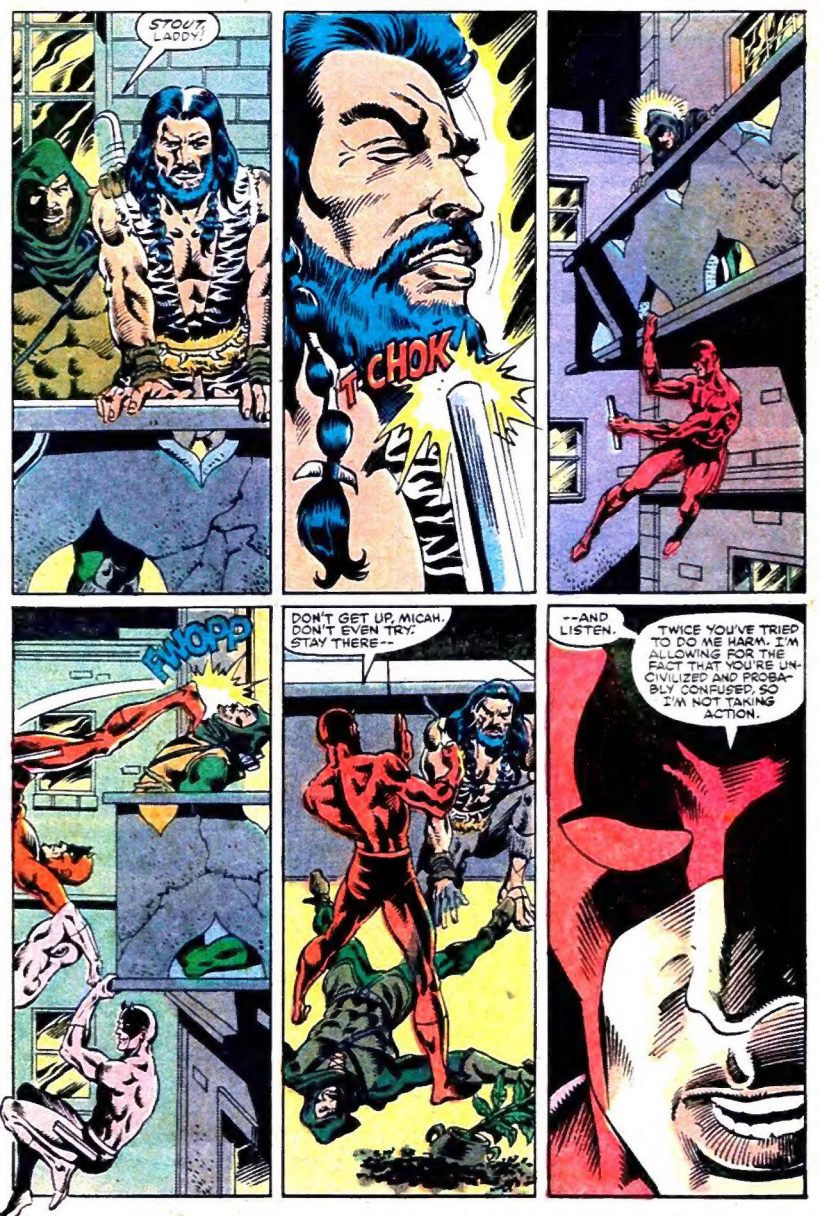
POWERMAN
C-COULD... I SHOW YOU AROUND, CHIEF?
ISN'T HE MAGNIFICENT?
I THINK OUR DEBBIE WOULD AGREE!
IN HERE IS THE MASTER SUITE--
--WITH ITS OWN BATHROOM AND AIR CONDITIONING UNIT AND...
...AND...
DON'T DO IT!

THE LADDY IN THE RED SUIT.
AND YOU'RE CROSSBOW, I PRESUME.
I WAS HOPIN' I'D RUN INTO YOU.
WHY?
TO KEEP YOU FROM INTERFERIN' IN AN HONEST MAN'S WORK AGAIN--
--BY PUTTIN' YOU IN THE DIRT!

THOD
UNNGHF
REAL SLIPP'RY, YOU ARE.
I SHOT ME BOLT, IF YOU DON'T MIND A JOKE--

--BUT I'M NOT PACKIN' IT IN *YET*, IF YOU DON'T MIND--
OH, I DON'T MIND--
--NOT A BIT.
BUT YOU REALLY OUGHT TO CONSIDER ANOTHER LINE OF WORK.
FANCY FOREIGN KINDA FIGHTIN'... NOT *FAIR* TO A WORKIN' MAN.
OKAY, BEFORE I GET ANY FANCIER ...WHAT'S YOUR STORY? WHY USE SUCH AN ANTI-QUATED WEAPON?
I'M NOT ONE WHO LIKES THE WORLD I SEE 'ROUND ME THESE DAYS...SO I PUT MESELF AT HIRE TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO MAKE THINGS PROPER AGAIN.
AT LEAST THAT STORY'S *DIFFERENT* FROM WHAT I'M USED TO HEAR-ING.

FOOTSTEPS;
HEAVY BREATHING/ HEARTBEAT; EXERTION--
DANGER!
YOU HAVEN'T FORGIVEN ME FOR INTERFERING WHEN YOU TRIED TO KILL THE COP AT THE HOSPITAL, HAVE YOU?
JUST AS YOU DIDN'T FORGIVE HIM FOR GASSING YOU WHEN YOU WERE TEARING UP THAT MARKET!
FIGHT... SUPER HERO FIGHTING...
...I CAN HELP... I'M A SUPER HERO TOO...
STARK! GET OUT OF HERE!
I WAS DISTRACTED FOR LESS THAN A SECOND... BUT IT WAS ALL HE NEEDED--


STOUT, LADDY!
CHOK
FWOPP
DON'T GET UP, MICAH. DON'T EVEN TRY. STAY THERE--
--AND LISTEN.
TWICE YOU'VE TRIED TO DO ME HARM. I'M ALLOWING FOR THE FACT THAT YOU'RE UNCIVILIZED AND PROBABLY CONFUSED, SO I'M NOT TAKING ACTION.

THIS TIME
NEXT TIME IT'LL BE DIFFERENT--AND YOU WON'T LIKE IT.
I PROMISE YOU THAT.
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE? CHIEF MICAH? MR. STARK? AND WHO'S THAT ON THE FLOOR?
SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?
I ALREADY HAVE, FRANKLIN--
THEY SHOULD BE HERE ANY SECOND.
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
I DON'T KNOW, FRANKLIN--
--I HONESTLY DON'T.

THE END.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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BOB BUDIANSKY
EDITOR
MICHAEL HIGGINS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel:

In my opinion issue #201 was a presentation of real life in the big city, at least as real as Marvel's ever had. It also had much to say for women's lib because the Black Widow was just as clever, witty (see pages 2 and 6) and fierce a fighter as Daredevil! I think this made a great team.

Paul Everett Spurgeon
Phoenix, AZ

Dear Sirs:

I am very glad to see that the Widow is back. I thought that she and Daredevil made an excellent team during the early #100's. I am equally glad that she was written out during Matt's infatuation with Heather Glenn. That was too silly for anyone of her capability to take seriously. Now that DAREDEVIL is a more or less serious book again, rather than a poor soap opera, it is my sincere wish that we see much more of Natasha Romanoff, The Black Widow.

Visually I prefer the old Widow with shoulder-length hair, skin suit, and gold accouterments. However, when one considers her chosen trade, then short hair, dark gray skin suit, and black accouterments are far more practical. I am not too fond of the spider design on her back and breast. I suggest you eliminate at least the back design. I think you should reintroduce the belt of spare powerlets and assorted grenades.

My compliments to you, gentlemen, for getting Danny Bulanadi to ink DAREDEVIL. He does an excellent job.

Gerald Perkins
Palo Alto, CA

Thanks for the thanks, Gerald, but we feel compelled to note that recent DAREDEVIL editor Linda Grant was no gentleman!

Dear Denny and William:

After reading DAREDEVIL #201, I almost "didn't dare" to write because of several gripes I had. But then I figured I would write anyway since the minor flaws didn't keep me from enjoying the story as a whole. Anyway, we all know Bullseye is a tough act to follow and DD needed the rest. The Widow's presence was great, and I think maybe she and DD can fall in love all over again without the pitfalls that broke them up the first time around. Natasha seems to be a changed woman after fighting The Hand alongside Daredevil in issues #188-190, and even though she tends to go overboard with wordy dialogue, this is definitely the Black Widow we've all been waiting for with bated breath. William Johnson deserves a round or three of applause for his depiction of the Widow in her new costume (and boy, is she ever in it).

Since I slid in one gripe already, I may as well toss in the rest. For one thing, the overriding theme of the city as personified in #201 didn't quite mesh with the type of tale being told. The story would have stood just as well (and maybe even better) without that aspect. The mood was there and we didn't need to be told so. Finally, the cover really rubs me the wrong way. While doing all that a cover should do, it still has the gaudy appearance of a very rough thumbnail sketch inked with a rainbow of vibrant color to compensate. Although the Widow looks good as is, poor ol' hornhead appears tossed in as an afterthought — and it's supposed to be *his* mag.

Complaints aside, I still look forward to seeing you in 30.

William Adkins, Jr.
Akron, OH

Thanks for the comments, Bill. Regarding #201's cover, our intent was to emphasize the Widow's appearance in this issue — not to give Daredevil short shrift!

Dear William and Denny:

I would like to commend you on your great work on DAREDEVIL. Denny's latest stories have been so well written that I have begun buying two issues of DAREDEVIL each month.

As for William Johnson's pencils — they are awesome. I have nearly a thousand comics — but his work stands out as some of the best in my collection.

Zola Viharo
Lindenwold, NJ

Dear Marvel:

First of all I would like to say thank you. I have almost every issue of DAREDEVIL, and I must admit that some of my favorites were the episodes in which DD and the Black Widow fought side-by-side. For many years I missed seeing her in action. When she finally did return, she seemed to play the villainess, as seen when she worked with Foggy to disrupt Matt and Heather's romance. But in issue #201, I was pleased beyond words to see Natasha in full form and back in action. And what action! I must say that William Johnson's art and superb ability to capture the human anatomy in all its splendor left me breathless. I feel, and I'm sure I'm not alone, that Mr. Johnson is a tremendous asset to this book.

Nick M. Spooner
Weston, MA

Dear Marvel:

The best thing about DAREDEVIL #201 was the return of the beautiful Black Widow. Hopefully, she will stay in the book for awhile.

DAREDEVIL desperately needs some more supporting characters and DD needs a new love interest. With her striking new costume and adventurous nature, Natasha is the perfect woman for Matt. They have been apart long enough to really appreciate each other, and I'd like to see them remain together.

Rex Carnes
Lancaster, SC

There *is* a new romantic interest in DD's life, Rex; however, it isn't the Black Widow. But don't despair — you'll be seeing more of Natasha in future issues.

Dear Denny, William and Bob:

DAREDEVIL #201 was exactly what I expected it to be. The story was definitely more offbeat than any other issue I have ever read. The art was of the same quality as the last four issues — excellent. I hope Denny and William stay on this book for a long time.

Now on to more specific comments. It was great to see the Black Widow back in action again. Her style of fighting and her personality were clearly shown in this issue. I hope Daredevil will come back into action soon. I'd also like to see him team up with the Black Widow for a story or two.

The cover of #201 shows four thugs fighting the Black Widow while DD watches from the roof of a nearby building. The Widow is shown punching one guy, kicking another, and firing an energy bolt at a third guy. As far as I know, the Widow never had the ability to fire energy bolts.

Joseph Vidal
Chicago, IL

Shame on you, Joseph, you should have consulted THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE to check that out! You would have learned that the Black Widow can indeed shoot electro-blasts from her wrist bracelets.

Dear Denny, Bill and the rest:

All I can say of DAREDEVIL #201 is "bravo!" The storyline was great, and with a few minor exceptions, so was the artwork. One thing that bothers me is how did Daredevil get his costume under his cast?

Other than that, the issue was great. After the Miller run in DAREDEVIL ended, I was considering not reading the book anymore, but the recent few issues have changed my mind.

Brian Henderson
Santa Ana, CA

Glad to hear it, Brian. As for how DD managed to get his costume *under* his cast, well, we're stumped by that one ourselves — but Kenny Everhart suggested one possibility . . .

Dear Bob:

In issue #200 Daredevil had a cast on his right arm and wasn't wearing a glove on his right hand. In #201, however, he still has the cast, but *is* wearing a glove underneath it. How did he get his costume under the cast?

In the mighty Marvel manner, I'll try to bail you out of this one. Probably Daredevil cut his glove at the wrist and left a trimming about a half inch long which he poked up under the edge of the cast. He probably also cut his costume just below the elbow on his right arm, and poked that under the edge of his cast as well.

I'll be awaiting my No-Prize.

Kenny Everhart
Camden, OH

Sounds like some funny reasoning to us, Kenny, but since we don't have a better solution ourselves — and you did try to get us off the hook — you'll be receiving your No-Prize shortly.

NEXT ISSUE: Matt meets Glorianna — and Daredevil meets . . . THE GAEL!!